

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7412

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 34230

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR TH BM
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS DISPOSAL IN BURMA AND THE STATISTICAL MORASS

REF: A) RANGOON 4078; B) BANGKOK 32617

1. EMBASSY MUCH APPRECIATES ANSWERS IN REF A TO OUR QUESTIONS
IN REF B. REF A RAISES OTHER QUESTIONS, HOWEVER,
RELATING TO THE STATISTICAL ACCURACY OF GOLDEN TRIANGLE
PRODUCTION FIGURES.

2. REF A STATES THAT ANNUAL REQUIREMENT OF BURMESE PAARMA-
CEUTICAL INDUSTRY IS 50 TONS OF RAW OPIUM, AND THAT SOME
COMES FROM SEIZED ILLEGAL OPIUM STOCKS. FIGURES IN PARA 2
SEEM TO INDICATE THAT RELATIVELY LITTLE COULD BE ACQUIRED
THIS WAY. DOES ALL OF THE REMAINDER COME FROM A LEGAL
OPIUM CROP, OR IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SOME IS PART OF THE
400 OR SO TONS PRODUCED IN THE BURMESE AREA OF THE GOLDEN
TRIANGLE? HOW MUCH OPIUM IS LEGALLY PRODUCED IN BURMA?
WHAT IS THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF THE REFINED CPIATES
PRODUCED BY BURMESE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES (WHICH
COULD BE A CONSIDERABLE PROPORTION OF TOTAL REPORTED
BURMESE PRODUCTION)?

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3. WE NOTE THAT EMBASSY RANGOON REPORTS SIX MONTH
FIGURES RELEASED BY THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY IN OCTOBER
ARE NOT FULLY CONCLUSIVE. IN YEARS PAST, THAILAND AND
BURMA SEIZURE STATISTICS HAVE BEEN ROUGHLY EQUAL (WHEN
FIGURED IN OPIUM EQUIVALENT), AND THOSE CITED ARE ONLY
ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE THAI SEIZURES FOR THE SAME 6-MONTH

PERIOD (THAI FIGURES FOR ALL OF 1976 WILL PROBABLY
APPROACH EIGHT METRIC TONS OF OPIUM EQUIVALENT). WE
WOULD BE INTERESTED TO RECEIVE EMBASSY RANGOON'S
ESTIMATES ON TOTAL SEIZURES FOR 1976, AS WELL AS
ESTIMATES OF OPIUM DESTROYED BY POPPY DESTRUCTION PROGRAMS.
WHITEHOUSE

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